

THE VILTRUMITE WAR

THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!



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77

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INVINCIBLE



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RYAN OTTLEY

CLIFF RATHBURN

FCO PLASCENCIA

Ryan
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+ fco



image COMICS PRESENTS

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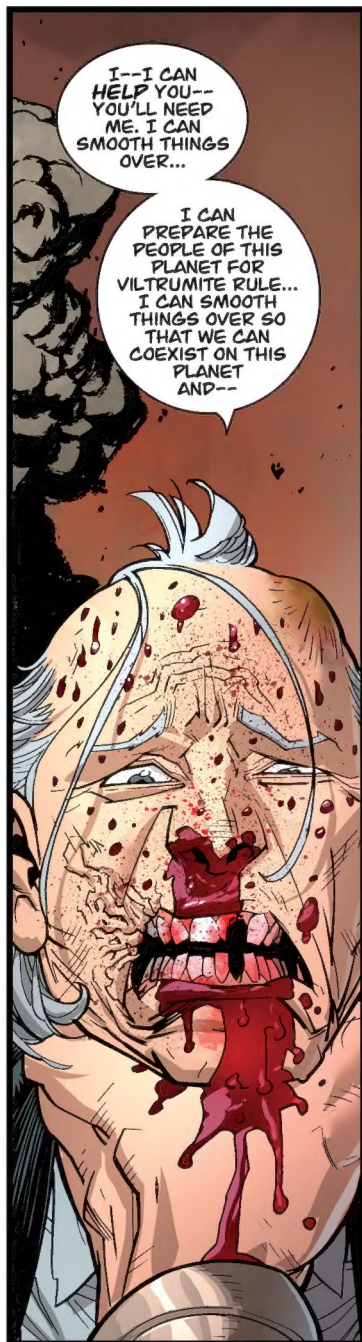
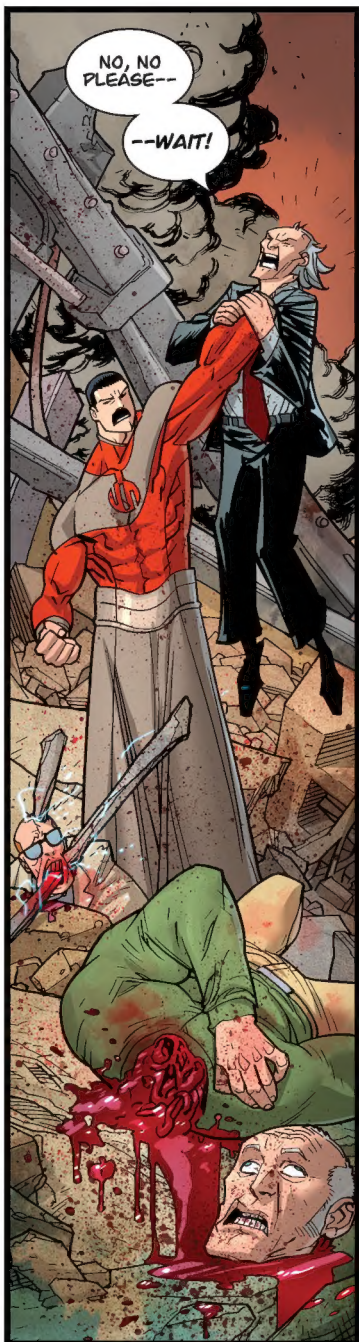
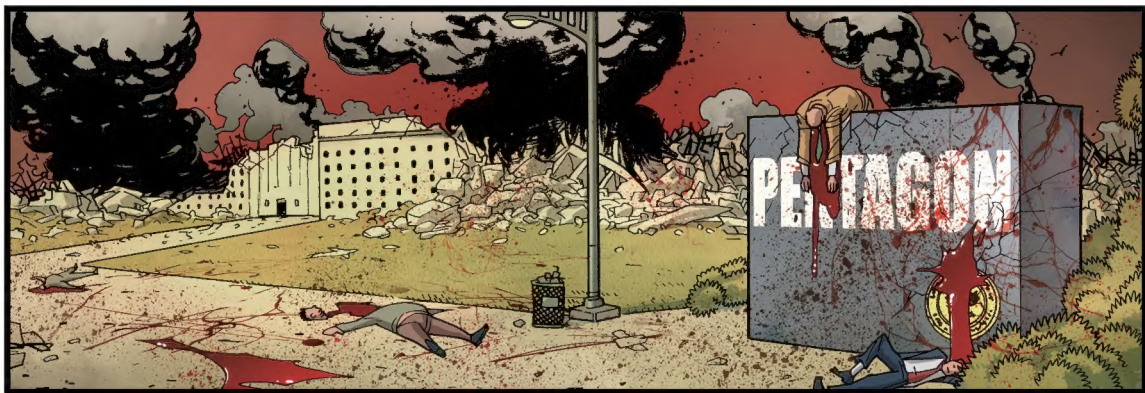


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TALESCRIA, HEADQUARTERS OF THE COALITION OF PLANETS.



THE MOVERS WON'T BE HERE FOR AT LEAST TWENTY MINUTES. PLENTY OF TIME IF YOU WANT TO--

TELIA, PLEASE... NOT NOW.



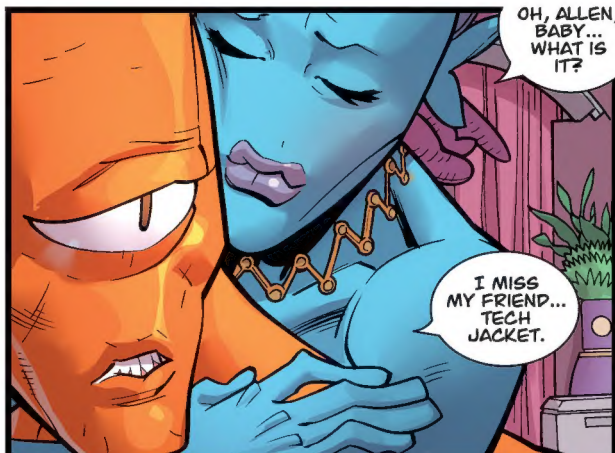
YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE FINE. THOSE VILTRUMITES PROBABLY JUST WENT INTO HIDING.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM. I BET WE DON'T HEAR FROM THEM FOR YEARS.

I DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THE VILTRUMITES. I COMMAND ALL THE PLANETS IN THE COALITION, NOW... I'VE GOT FAR TOO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT.

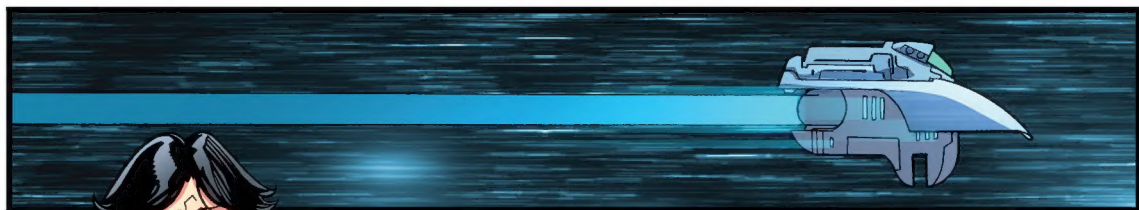
STILL, I CAN'T STAND THAT WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT... PART OF ME, I HATE TO ADMIT, WISHES THEY DID GO TO EARTH... AT LEAST THEN, WE'D KNOW.

BUT... THAT'S NOT ALL OF IT...



OH, ALLEN, BABY... WHAT IS IT?

I MISS MY FRIEND... TECH JACKET.



I KNOW I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS STRONG AS YOU GUYS--BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW, WHATEVER WE'RE HEADING INTO, WHATEVER WE'RE UP AGAINST...

I'M TOTALLY THERE FOR YOU.

EARTH IS MY HOME, TOO-- AND I'M GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO TAKE OUT AS MANY VILTRUMITES AS I CAN.

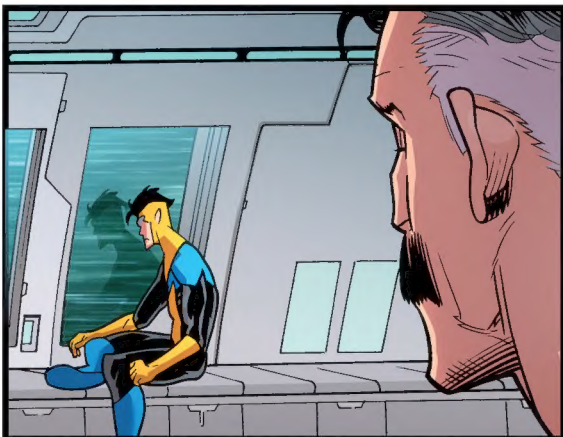
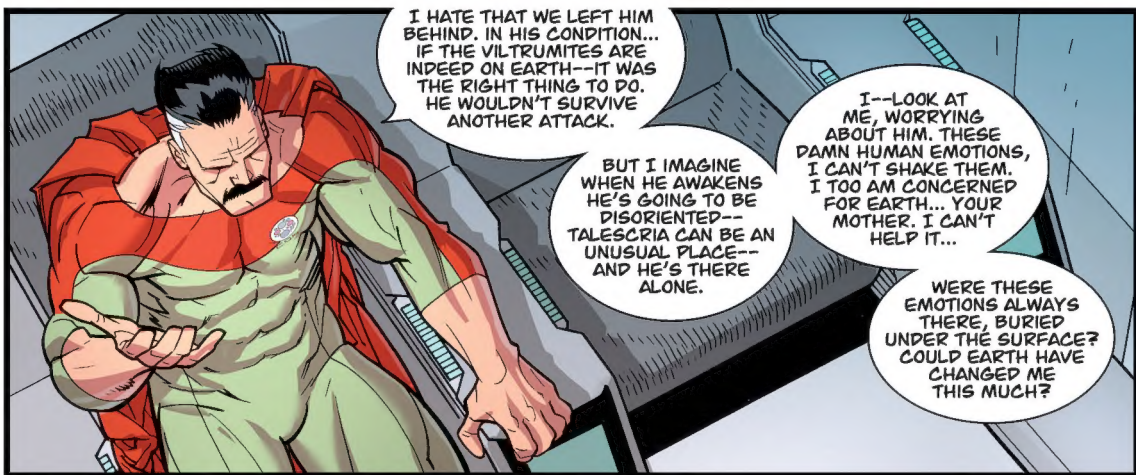
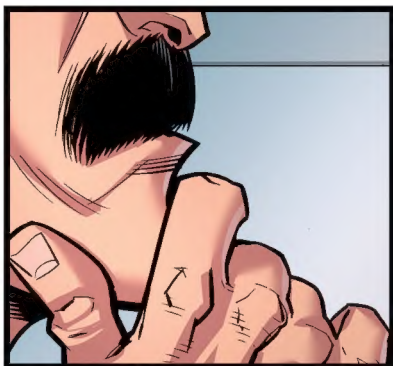
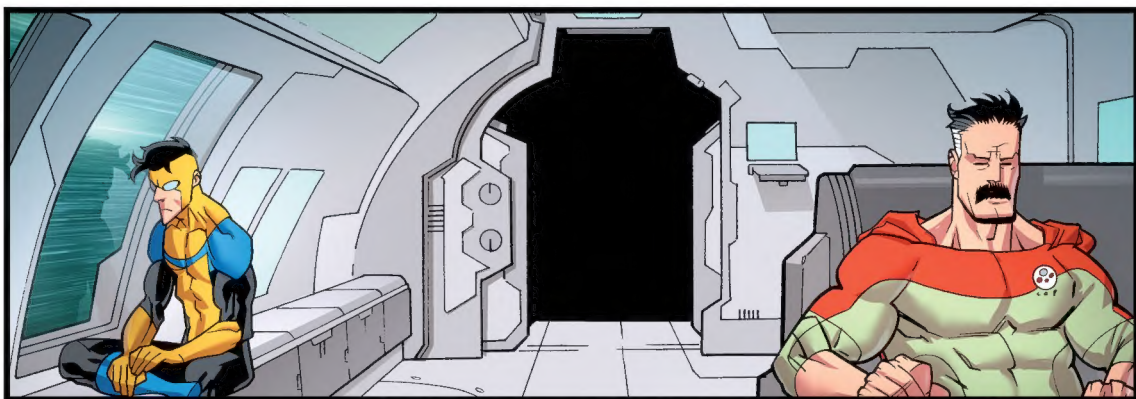
ALLEN LET ME KEEP A LOT OF THE WEAPONS THEY ARMED ME WITH THAT WERE MADE FROM THE THINGS YOU'D WRITTEN ABOUT IN YOUR BOOKS, NOLAN--AND I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW I'LL BEST USE THEM TO STAY IN THE FIGHT AND KEEP THEM FROM GETTING NEAR ME.

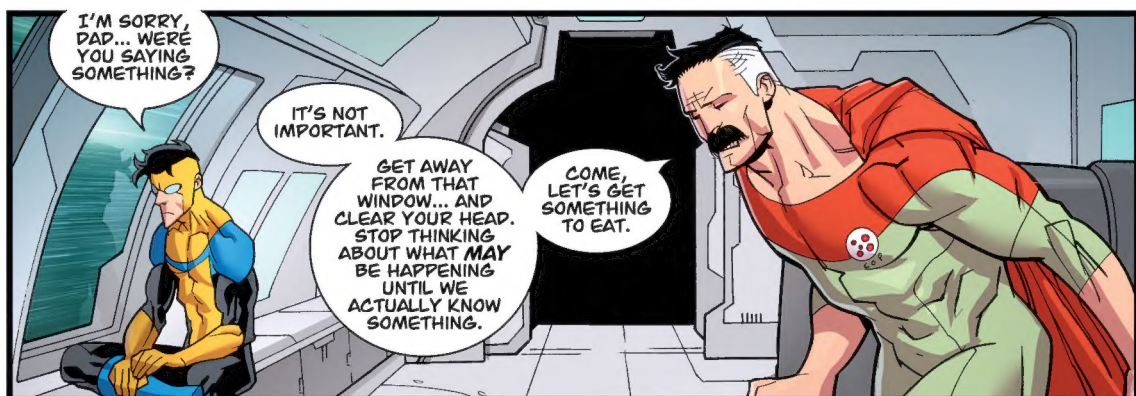
I CAN ASSURE YOU, I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO--

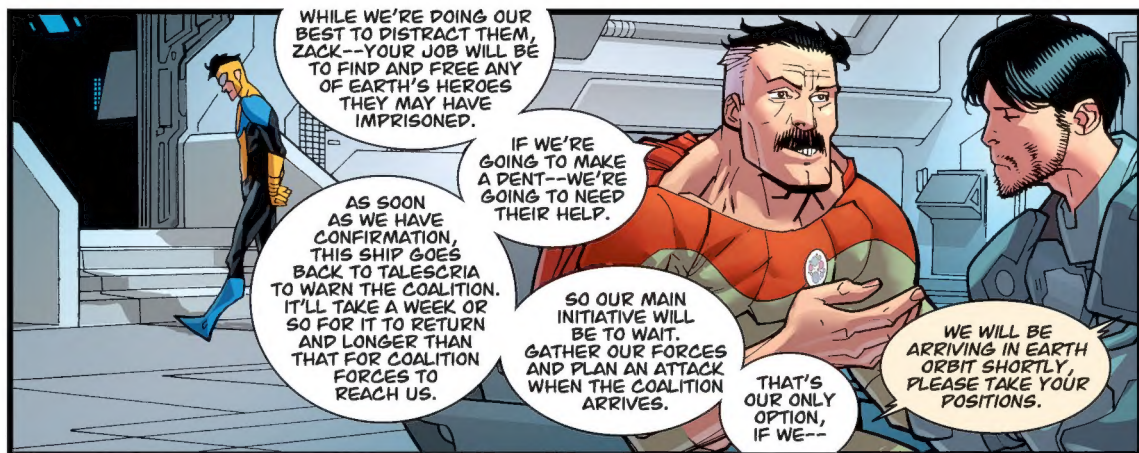
--HELP SAVE EARTH FROM THOSE DUDES...

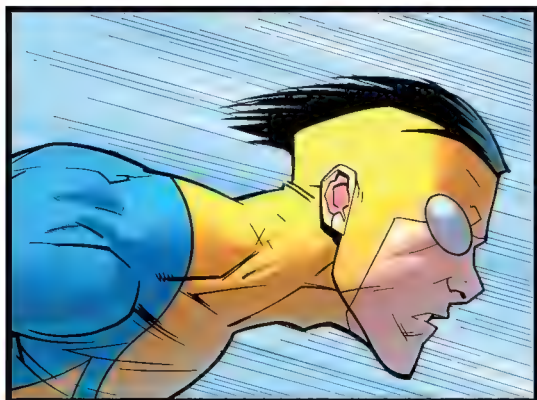
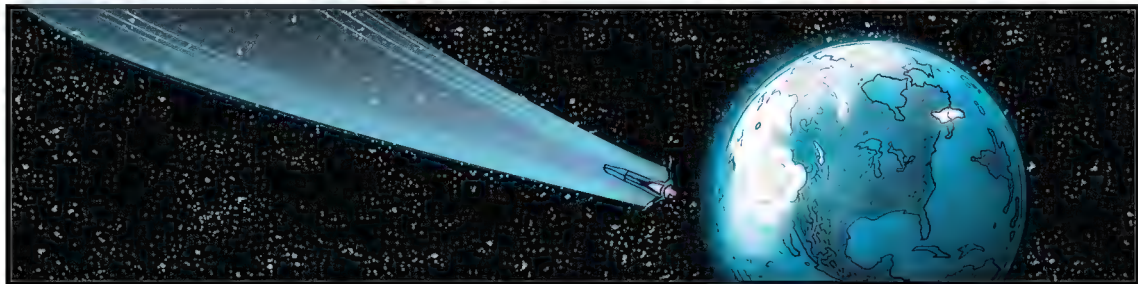
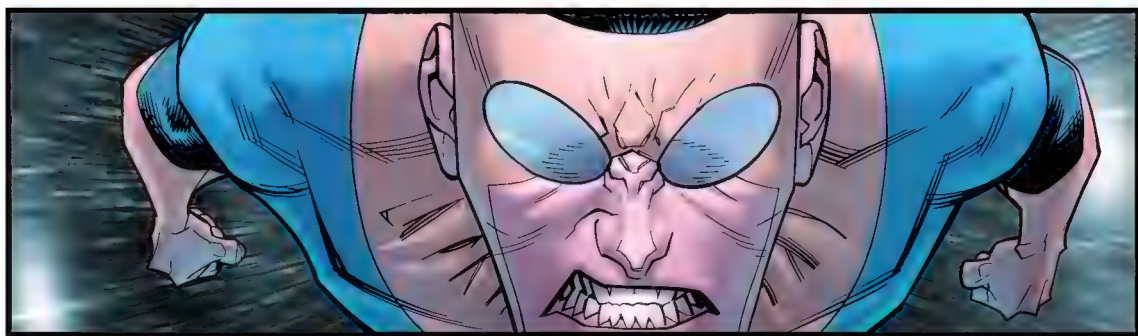
...AND THEN I'M GOING TO MAKE SWEET LOVE TO YOUR FACES IN CELEBRATION.

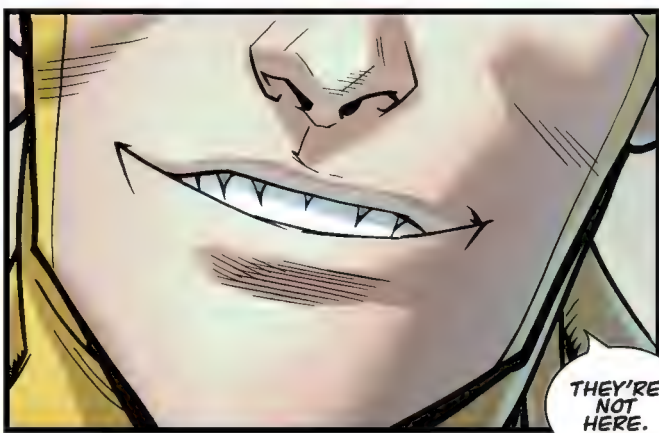
YOU GUYS SUCK.











WE VERY
MUCH ARE
HERE.



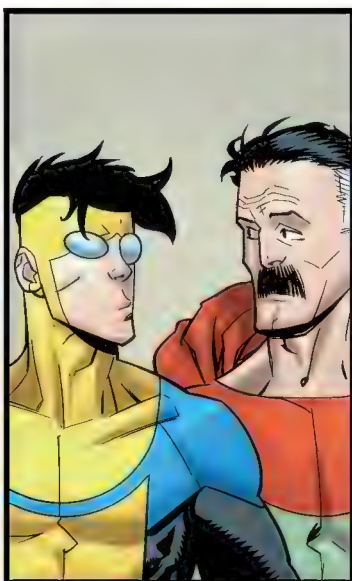


YOU CAN FIGHT ME IF YOU WISH, BUT I AM NOT ALONE HERE.

IF BY CHANCE YOU WERE ABLE TO INJURE ME, I COULDN'T GUARANTEE THE REST OF MY FORCES WOULDN'T LAY WASTE TO THIS PLANET.

I SUGGEST THAT WE TALK, THE THREE OF US.

YOUR CHOICE. FIGHT OR TALK.



TALK.



WISE CHOICE... I AM PLEASED.

I HAVE COME TO OFFER YOU A TRUCE. THERE ARE EXACTLY THIRTY-SEVEN OF US LEFT ALIVE, SOME OF US SEVERELY INJURED.

THAT IS ENOUGH TO TEAR THIS PLANET IN HALF, KILLING EVERY LIVING CREATURE HERE, AND THERE IS NOTHING YOU COULD DO TO STOP THAT.

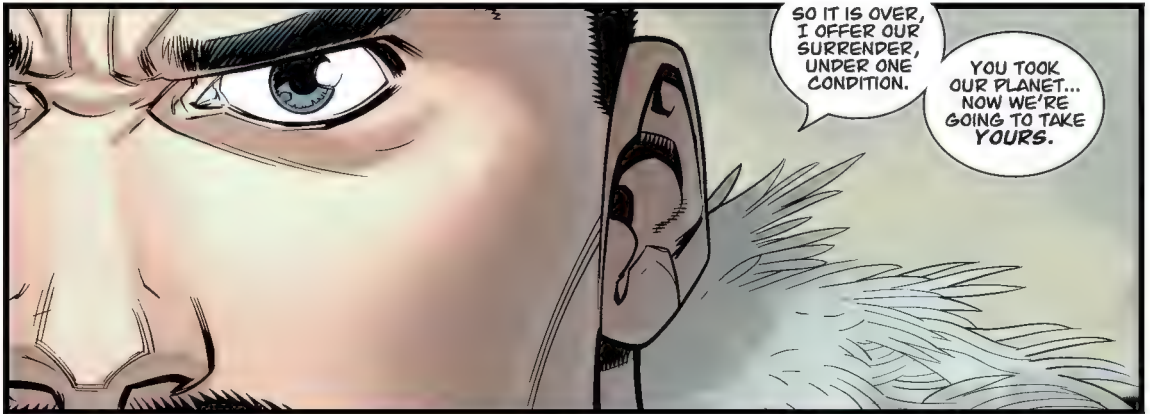
AND IT WOULD BE FAIR RETALIATION FOR WHAT YOU DID TO OUR HOME WORLD.



BUT I WAS NOT
MADE GRAND
REGENT OF
THE VILTRUM
EMPIRE FOR
REVENGE.

I WAS
MADE TO RULE
IN ORDER TO
ENSURE THE
SURVIVAL OF
OUR PEOPLE...
AND I HAVE
LEARNED...

...THIS
IS NOT A
WAR
WE CAN
SURVIVE.



SO IT IS OVER,
I OFFER OUR
SURRENDER,
UNDER ONE
CONDITION.

YOU TOOK
OUR PLANET...
NOW WE'RE
GOING TO TAKE
YOURS.



WHAT?!



WE ARE
ALREADY
HERE.

WE DO
NOT WISH
TO LEAVE.



ARE YOU
INSANE? I'LL
NEVER--

BEFORE
YOU OVERREACT,
TAKE NOTICE OF
THE FACT THAT
YOU COULDN'T
MAKE US LEAVE IF
YOU WANTED
TO.

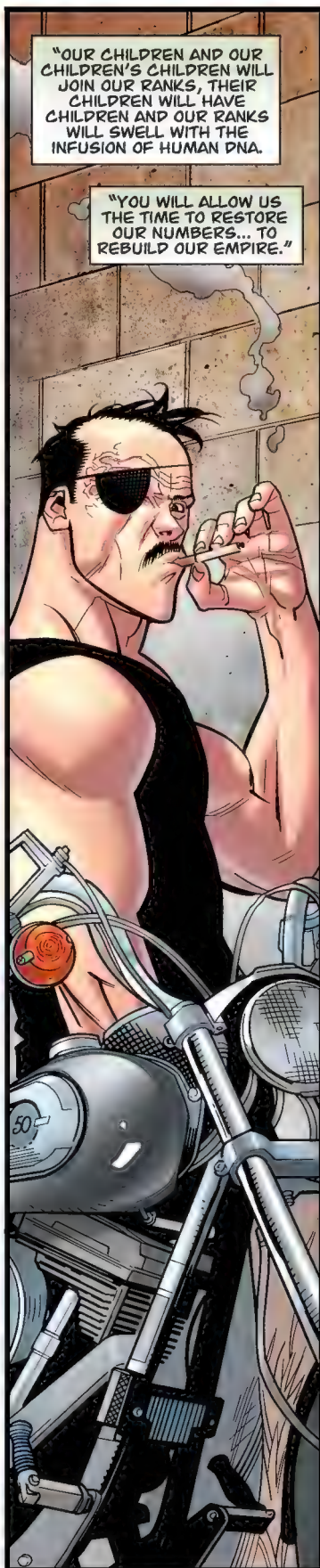
WHAT I
PROPOSE
IS THIS...





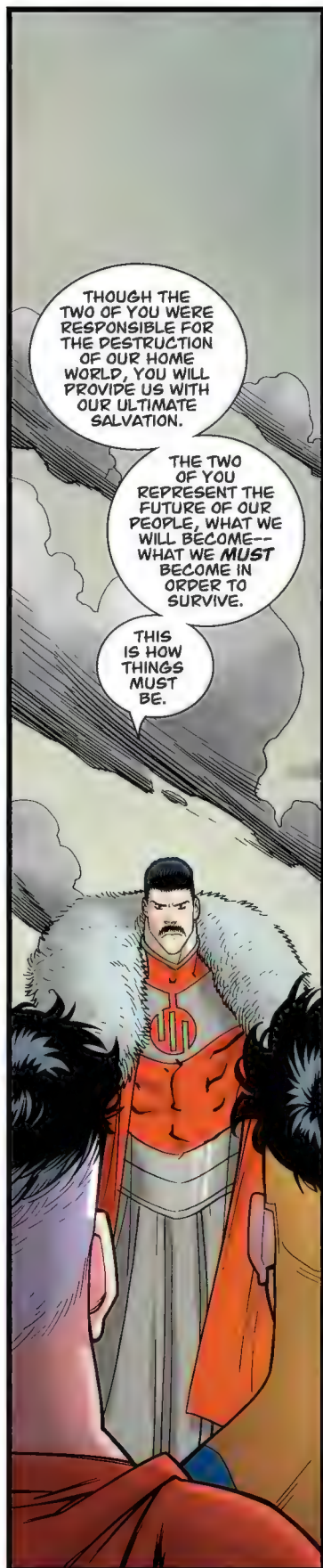
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE VILTRUMITE PEOPLE.

WE WILL RESTORE OUR RANKS OVER THE COURSE OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS. HUMAN DNA HAS BEEN PROVEN TO MAKE NEAR PERFECT HYBRIDS... THE CLOSEST THING WE HAVE TO PURE-BLOODED VILTRUMITES.



"OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WILL JOIN OUR RANKS, THEIR CHILDREN WILL HAVE CHILDREN AND OUR RANKS WILL SWELL WITH THE INFUSION OF HUMAN DNA.

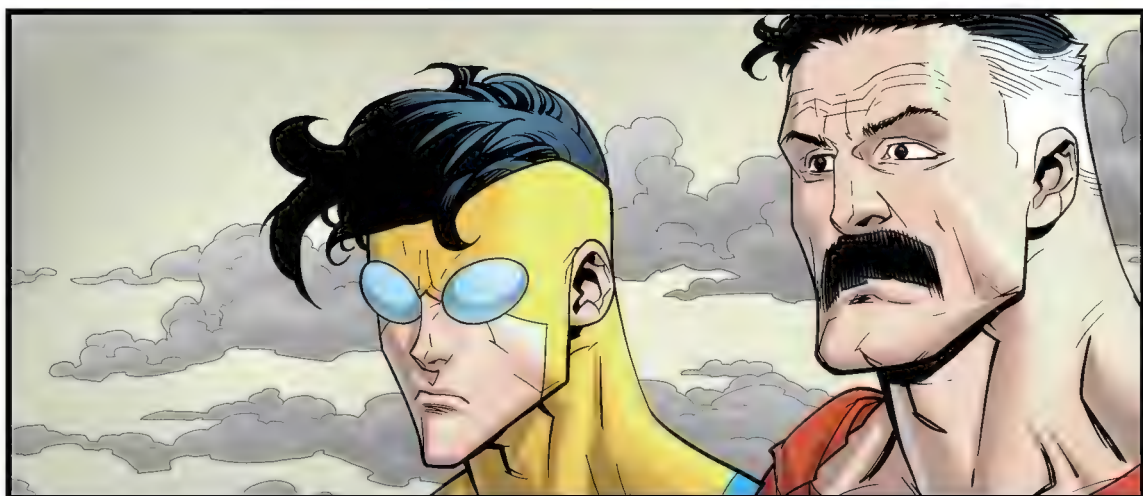
"YOU WILL ALLOW US THE TIME TO RESTORE OUR NUMBERS... TO REBUILD OUR EMPIRE."



THOUGH THE TWO OF YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR HOME WORLD, YOU WILL PROVIDE US WITH OUR ULTIMATE SALVATION.

THE TWO OF YOU REPRESENT THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE, WHAT WE WILL BECOME-- WHAT WE **MUST** BECOME IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

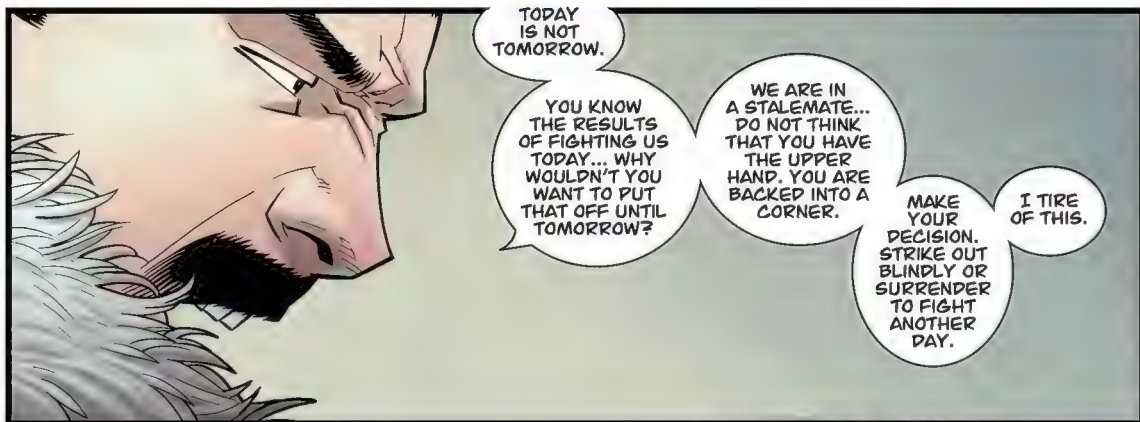
THIS IS HOW THINGS MUST BE.





WHAT YOU ARE PROPOSING... YOU WANT US TO WAIT AND RESUME OUR FIGHT WHEN THERE ARE MORE OF YOU-- AND YOU ARE STRONGER?

HOW COULD I AGREE TO THAT?



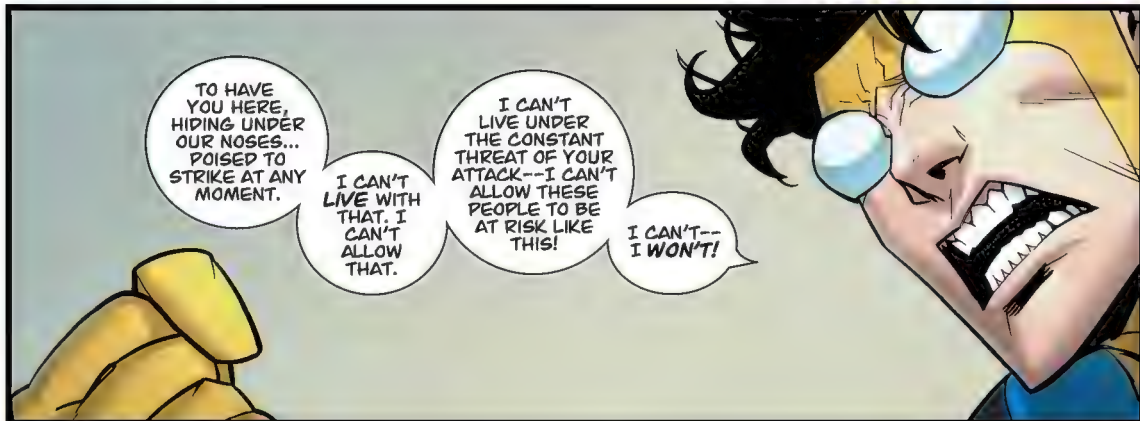
TODAY IS NOT TOMORROW.

YOU KNOW THE RESULTS OF FIGHTING US TODAY... WHY WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO PUT THAT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW?

WE ARE IN A STALEMATE... DO NOT THINK THAT YOU HAVE THE UPPER HAND. YOU ARE BACKED INTO A CORNER.

MAKE YOUR DECISION. STRIKE OUT BLINDLY OR SURRENDER TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

I TIRE OF THIS.



TO HAVE YOU HERE, HIDING UNDER OUR NOSES... POISED TO STRIKE AT ANY MOMENT.

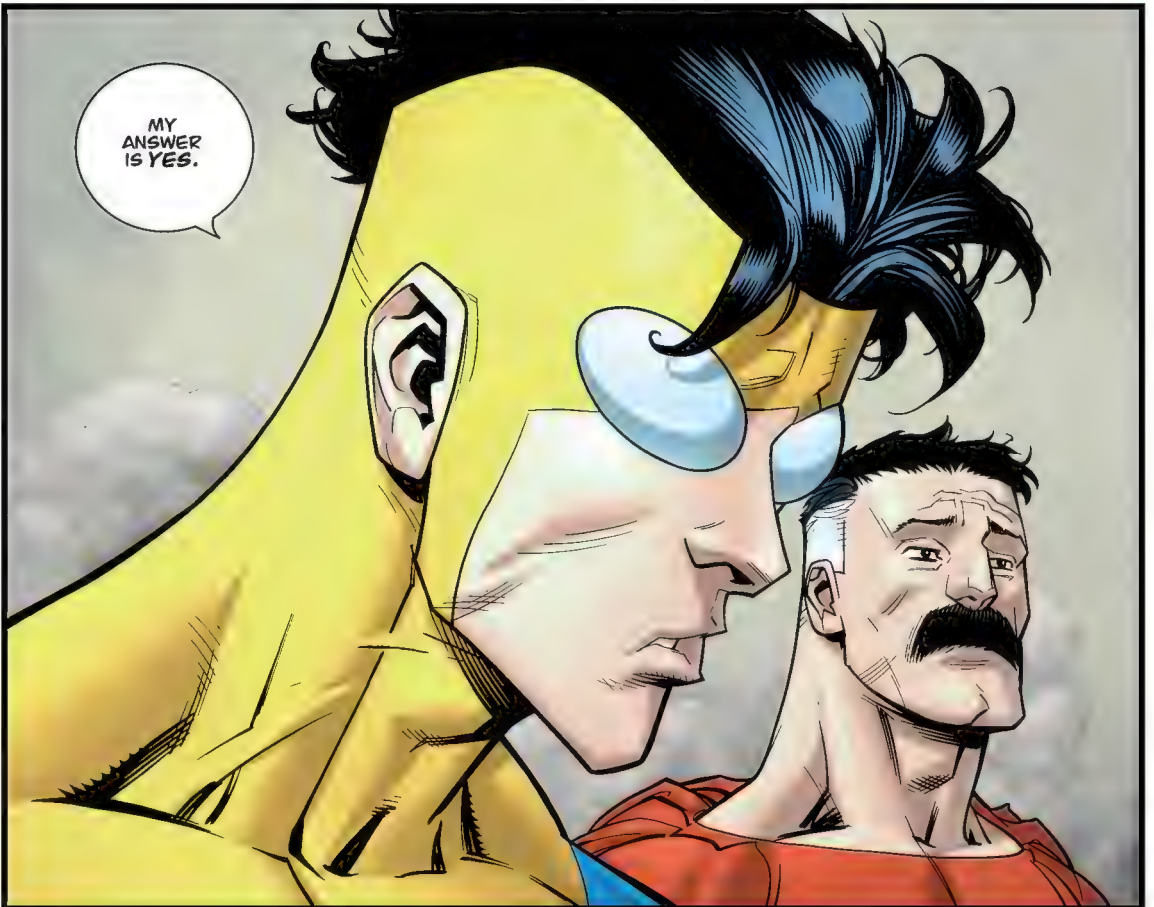
I CAN'T LIVE WITH THAT. I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.

I CAN'T LIVE UNDER THE CONSTANT THREAT OF YOUR ATTACK--I CAN'T ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO BE AT RISK LIKE THIS!

I CAN'T-- I WON'T!



MARK.



WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE

C/O FUNK-O-TRON

P.O. BOX 1870

RICHMOND, KY 40476

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIBLE

Hey pals!

Well, for the people who were judging the pace of the War (David Larsen I'm looking at you), aren't you friggin' dying right now?

Kudos to everyone on the team for working tirelessly through the holidays to bring this issue out. There's no doubt that the conclusion will be well worth the wait!

Mail time! This is where we get to find out if you all dug the crap out of our explosive 75th issue!

Kirkman:

Your little book here is one of the first comics I started as an adult. I have never...ever leared up when reading a comic. Ever. You just inject so much into these books that you actually start caring about them like they were people. I generally attempt to resist immersion as a rule when reading and gaming, to keep my critical skills honed...but you have found a way to bypass that. It makes me really seem cool on the internet...good thing the internet can't see you cry....

Don't be such a baby.

I know I know...there is still a chance Oliver may not be dead....but he totally is....I'm just saying....I was moved, and that's difficult.

Also, I wanted to let you know that even though it was MONTHS....I should have never underestimated your devotion to quality. Issue #75 was WELL worth the wait.

Ottley:

I would like to bring to your attention the first Conquest incident. You know the one. My complaint is not the depiction of Eve's violent -almost- death....I'm referring to the incidental result. Case in point: the boobs, they got bigger.

I would like you to know, sir, that I will be paying VERY close attention to the continuity of your art. I can't stress the "VERY" part of that statement enough. If I see one deviation, I have only this to say: pulk will find you....

With increased size there are many things to take into account. The reaction to inertia and motion. I will expect this to be fully documented visually (i.e. jiggle). You are a very talented sequential artist, and I have no doubt in your ability to depict this phenomenon.

Thanks in advance, pulk

Well, one person's pleased! Thanks, pulk.

I should point out (This is Robert in italics, by the way) that the breast enlargement gag was prefaced with a mandate for Ryan NOT to make her breasts visibly bigger. They're only slightly bigger, something only a boyfriend would notice. So if there is no visual change, Ryan's not doing anything wrong, just what I requested.

To whom it may concern,

Hi. long time reader, first time caller. I've literally never written any sort of fan letter or whatever, but I just finished issue #75, and I feel like it would be a crime not to tell you guys what an amazing book it is. Not to take away from the fact that the entire issue, cover to cover, was ridiculously awesome....but I must have stared at those splash pages for like fifteen minutes each. Incredible. For real.

Word.

Now, as far as Oliver getting his face punched off goes.... I was never entirely sure how I felt about him as a character. He could have easily gone the way of so many annoying children that have ruined other comics, TV shows, or movies. To your credit, he never became that. I accepted him as part of the overall story, but I was never really sure how I felt about him on a person-to-comic-book-character level. That being said, while the art is just plain gorgeous, I have to say, it stung. I was expecting maybe Oliver getting back-handed across the galaxy, not insta-death. So kudos to you, sir, for making each page turn, not only an adventure, but an emotional rollercoaster.

At this point, you've seen how things have progressed, so I will follow with: what doesn't kill Oliver makes him stronger!

Well, that's really all the gushing I have the capacity for in one day. I just wanted to drop the gang a long overdue line and say way to go on having one of the best books on the market, and thanks for 75 issues of non-stop awesome.

Warmest personal regards,
Antony Francesconi

Oh also, I'm loving that Carl is wearing a science dog shirt on the TWD show, which I look forward to watching for many years. And congrats on the show, by the way. The premier far exceeded my already extremely high expectations.

C'mon Anthony, bringing up that zombie book in the greatest super hero book? Oliver is pretty much murdered and you still manage to slip in how much you love some AMC show? Way to show your love to Invincible. #teasing

Dear Kirkman & Friends,

WHOOAAAA! That was an absolutely INCREDIBLE issue; from beginning to end. The first splash page inevitably makes my jaw drop, only to later slam on my desk followed promptly by my eyes bulging at the site of Oliver's arm being ripped off and his face being OBLITERATED! If that combined with Allen's consistent ability to "shock & awe" me with a new and creative way of murdering someone wasn't enough, you give me (yes, I'm taking this as a personal gift) not ONE, not even TWO, but FOUR GLORIOUS CONSECUTIVE SPLASH PAGES!!!! I am supremely impressed, good sir.

Ryan Ottley was able to get me to feel an ounce (perhaps a little less than an ounce) of pity for the Vitrum Empire leader when his home planet was destroyed. I could really see the pain in his teary eyes.

I have one question. It was assumed that Oliver is dead but what is stopping him from going into some hibernation state like Invincible and healing? Furthermore, since he is the offspring of a Vitrumite and a giant Insect species, perhaps he could have advanced regenerative healing. He could grow his arm back. I'm just spit balling here. As always, you as a team, have been able to take me on the emotional rollercoaster of strongly disliking Oliver only to eventually become quite attached to his humor and attitude. I just don't want to lose him. Don't take him away from me.

All of this has been addressed. I can't even say anything funny to it.

You're just not trying hard enough, Sina.

And FCO, I just want to thank you. You have taken this book to even further heights with how POPPED the color has become. It punches me in the face (in the best way possible). I am unaware if my shout to FCO will need translation or not. :)

FCO needs no translation for your love. XXXO, FCO!

In conclusion, omega beams, exploding planets, and decapitations make for an astounding (no pun intended) anniversary issue of this comic. By the way, I think you should seriously consider a Battle Beast/Allen the Alien buddy cop back-up story. It would be hilarious and I'm sure you would have a blast doing it. I know we would love to see it.

Thanks again,
Bobby Draper

Best name ever. Right, Robert?

I'm contractually obligated to agree. AMC is the best.

P.S. I'll be getting the C.O.P. emblem tattooed shortly :)

Thanks for the kind words, Bobby. We look forward to the tattoo! Well, I know Cory is, at least.

Tattoos, yuk.

Hey Rob! Can I call you Rob? Probably not. Oh well! Too late now.

You can't call him that. I would have edited it to say Robert, but then I wouldn't have been able to comment.

I recently met a man named Lawrence who can't stand being called Larry or Lar or anything other than Lawrence. It's good to know I'm not the only one.

Anyways, I just finished issue 75, and dang it, I really don't know why I don't expect this kind of crap from you anymore. You spent all of 73 letting us and Nolan get to know Oliver better, finally get us to the point where we actually LIKE the little murderer, and then you brutally kill him off. You really are the meanest writer ever.

I'm going to be the meanest editor: it's actually anyway singular. Think about it, if you were hanging on to the ways part, it would be manyways. At many rate...

Wow, Sina. I gotta say, I bagged on you for noting being funny in another letters column. And at the time I felt bad, but now I'm glad I did... because this was HILARIOUS. Bravo. "At many rate..." Golden. #sincere

But man you tell an epic story! This issue was amazing, front to back. As always, Ryan and FCO's work on this issue was some of the best art I've ever seen in a comic book. I'm really going to need to plan a trip to a convention just so I can get my hands on an Ottley original. The man has the best pencils in superhero comics, bar none.

cough Cliff Rathburn? *cough*

And one last thing, I was definitely mourning the loss of the beards in 75. The readers have spoken! Let the beards grow!

Thanks for continually putting out the best superhero comic in the universe!

Dale Mark

P.S. This is actually the first time I've ever written in to a comic before! Never felt the need before, but I've been reading this book for so many years now, and what you do with the comic just gets more amazing with every month. You really have a gift for telling amazing stories, and as long as you keep writing them, I'll keep buying them! Thanks for everything!

Well, Dale, we rewarded your picking us to be the first letters column you write by printing your letter! Now don't cheat on us and write to some other super hero book, okay?

P.P.S. Congrats on The Walking Dead TV show being awesome! I'm not sure how big of a hand you had in the show being as good as it was besides writing such strong material in the first place, but it's still a really top notch production and I'm eagerly anticipating the rest of the series. Thanks for everything Rob!

Robert, these people seem to like anything you do... they better be buying GUARDING THE GLOBE and pre-ordering SUPER DINOSAUR, right?

RIGHT YOU ARE, Sina. Both of those titles are the best and pre-ordering is your friend.

Dear Kirkman,

Just finished Invincible 75 and all I can say is WOW! The series of double-splash pages that Ryan drew were mind-blowingly beautiful. I have been absolutely blown away by The Vitrumite War story arc so far and I can't WAIT to see what's coming next! I loved #75 SO MUCH that I went out

and bought some back issues that I didn't have yet.

Thx

I am an aspiring comic book writer and it's a joy to read Invincible because it inspires me to work hard like you guys and create an awesome book! One of the store owners of my comic shop and I ALWAYS talk about Invincible when a new issue comes out! Invincible is by far one of the best comic books out there and I look forward to it every single month!

Keep up the GREAT work guys!

Aaron E.

P.S. Is there a chance that you and/or Ryan could be guests at the comic conventions in Minnesota sometime soon? That'd be awesome! :)

Aaron, from what I know, Robert and Ryan have already planned most of their cons for 2011, and it doesn't include going to Minnesota, sadly. The best I can do is try and convince the guys to make it over to New York Comic-Con, so at least they'll be on your coast.

Wait, Sina... are you saying that you think Minnesota is close to New York? Minnesota is as Midwest as the Midwest gets... right?

Yeah, you totally caught me failing the geography test. But whatever: New York is almost a thousand miles closer to Minnesota than California or Arizona (the two states you and Ryan agreed to appear at in 2011).

Invinci-crew:

I have never written to your letters page -- till now. I know you probably get that a lot, who doesn't right? Anyway I didn't start out with Invincible with issue one. I thought the artwork was a little too 'light' and cartoony for my tastes. It seemed less detailed or fully rendered that what I'm used to. I like guys like Reis, Perez (George, the master not that new kid) and Deodato Jr.

Different strokes for different folks.

But either it was the covers or the trades or just word of mouth from a couple of the guys at Geoffrey's Comics in Gardena - one such loud mouthed obnoxious Hispanic dude who calls himself Morris - god that guy's such a prick - I don't know what it was but I ended up getting the first trade and then the second and third.

Dude, Morris is pretty cool, he's just a vociferous dude.

But 'Vince' and I didn't really click, not totally for many, many issues after that - but yet I kept hanging on. I guess it's that mentality of "maybe it'll get better" "just give it some more time" let's see what this zero-buck Kirkman's got" that sort of thing. I was rather blasé about the writing as well. I thought here is a really "kick-ass" variation on the Superman mythos but it doesn't seem to be really going anywhere - there didn't seem to be any real or heavy characterization going on - at least not from a writing standpoint - but then I think it was really the art that kept me from really investing in it and actually reading the words in the balloons as if they were more than just words in a balloon.

Anyway about 20 or so issues ago I noticed the coloring change - which brought out, heightened the art a lot more - thus giving me a more crystallized visual of the art itself. NOW I could get into the story - I loved the relationships between Mark and his buddy from high school, his failed initial relationship with Amber - there were some really cute and comical moments back in the earlier issues.

Then you brought the purple kid in. Eww - Eeyyuucck! I gave that move the 'kiss of death' award usually only reserved for failing TV shows of the 80's and 90's. You know when a show isn't doing too well in the ratings and they want to do something to shake things up a bit - what do they do? Bring in a newborn. Wow, how original, how exciting -- yawn.

So you're reading all of these issues and still nonplussed but continuing to read on?

The only time I thought Oliver had any real potential as a character is when he exhibited hints of possibly turning bad, after having killed a super villain - I thought then he might eventually grow into an antagonist for Mark down the road - but sadly no, I never really liked the Oliver character - not much anyway.

Now here today just several days after reading Invincible 75 I felt a pang. I knew that in a big magnum opus such as this one, one longer and more involved and even more logically mapped out than some of the other things Kirkman's done during this series, that some pivotal or minorly important character(s) would bite the dust. Luckily and smartly it was Oliver. But as I said I felt a pang. Mark's reaction, then his cradling Oliver's body in his arms, tears streaming out into space - that hurt. I felt that moment and am now just a little more convinced that Kirkman's probably a better writer than I initially gave him credit for.

After reading 70+ books.

Plus this is a little reminiscent of Savage Dragon in that a ways into it bone Larsen just changes the whole status quo and moves Dragon to some alternate world in which he stayed much to much and waaay too long - so long in fact I dropped the book - The Oliver thing was like that but even though it was something like 40 or so issues with this kid around, Kirkman was able to somewhat cleanly put that genie back in it's bottle, meaning he was able to restore the status quo to an extent. And sure I got a slight jolt at the thought of Omni Man returning to earth after the war (if even he survives - which he probably won't - giving Mark that Jor-el/ Pa Kent - coming of age thing), but I don't feel that's feasible or desirable at this point. From a writing standpoint I could see the angst the resentment, the frustration and all the hurt feelings between Omni and Mark's mom - what's her face, but then that would only have fuel for a short time - plus the man killed a crap load of his former teammates, he's a wanted fugitive, he'd have no place on earth and no one would want him around.

Anyway I said all that to say this; Thank you Robert Kirkman for being subtle, subdued and very crafty. You are indeed a talented writer and a gifted creator. Yes it has finally "gotten good." Both the art and the writing are as close to top notch as you can get - and oh yeah - "Invincible" plowing through-destroying Viltrum? ...Cathartic. Every bit as much a classic climactic moment as the destruction of the death star. Great job that moved me as well. In a sense some small retribution for Il' Ollie's death - I wonder how and can't wait to see Mark's mother's reaction to his loss. I remember how she fell in love with him in three hours back in issue 31.

Okay, so that's it for me and my first time writing in. It takes a lot and a hell of a talented crew to get me to write in to anybody these days so you guys are now in some pretty esteemed company

so give yourselves some hearty pats on the back for this one. Keep up the good work and I'll keep coming back. And Oh, by the way I also shop at Comic Bug in Manhattan beach, they're a great bunch of guys over there and my friend Morris is really a great guy. I love him to pieces, he's been a long time reader-fan of Vince as well so I write this on his behalf as well.

All right I'm out.

Peace
Cassius Coleman
Los Angeles, Ca

I bet you all that next month I will publish a letter from Cassius saying something along the lines of: "You kept Oliver alive? Man, I'm out."

Here's hoping that you're excited to see Oliver back in light of the Viltrumites' next step in this War.

It's pretty funny how on the fence people still are about Mark's lil' bro. When- oh when- will you all just fully embrace him? I was hoping the hipster long hair would have sealed the deal...

Oliver, or Young Omni-Man as I like to call him... is awesome and if you don't love him there's something wrong. He's great. Trust me.

Hi all,

I don't think the Viltrumite War is turning out epic enough. Please correct this oversight.

Thanks,
Mike Todd

I thought seeing crabby Viltrumites as humans was pretty epic, Mike. Let me know if that tickled your fancy, because I pretty much expired from those pages.

YE GODS!

I wasn't expecting #75 to be such a big issue. I'm not sure why. Perhaps it's because new series just don't seem to last that long any more, but I'm so glad Invincible has, and if there is any justice, will continue to do so, all the way to #100 and the crossover with The Walking Dead you promised all those years ago.

You remember that right?

Robert???

Of course I do. I'm already making plans for it. Just wait!

Anyway, just when I think you can't top the Invincible War, and the big fight(s) with Conquest, you have Invincible kill a planet. Crikey. And thank you for using splash pages in a proper dramatically appropriate manner, rather than just to bump up the page count.

Yeah, credit to the writer for knowing when to use those. Issue 75 was the perfect excuse for some messed up spreads.

And Oliver! Oh no! I liked the little fellow, so if he has bought the farm, then that'll be pretty grim, but one of the great things about this title is that -- like the aforementioned zombie comic -- no one is safe. Maybe Vince himself, but even then I think you could find a way to keep going without him. I hope Oliver makes it, but if not, he had a good innings.

The boy hasn't even grown a sick Viltrumite beard yet! You think Robert's really done with him?

And Battle Beast! Wonderful, brilliant Battle Beast! The best anthropomorphic animal character since Rocket Raccoon!

He should have his own series with Allen as space cops!

And post-apocalyptic time-travelling Science Dog!

Cory Walker FTW

To paraphrase a TV advert you guys never got over there, "with these comics, you are really spoiling us!" And just so this doesn't come across as mindless fanboy sycophancy, I don't like Space Racer's gun. If anyone should have a big stupid like-what-Cable-had-in-1993 gun, it's Space Racer. That is all.

Kelvin Green

If Robert feels so behooved to argue with you over the Space Racer gun, he will. Otherwise, we are all in agreement with you, Kelvin. That gun ruined the entire Viltrumite War. #justkidding

That gun is dope, whatever.

One issue left! If you think you've seen the best of Invincible, just wait until you see what everyone on Earth has been up to! Thanks for waiting with us as we produced the best War ever. Kudos again to Robert, Ryan, Cliff, FCO, and Rus for doing their best work ever.

Here's the next installment in the Tech Jacket back-up series. Sorry we missed a step with this back-up last issue.

-Sina Grace

Later, gators!

-Robert Kirkman

TECH JACKET

CHAPTER 6 of 8

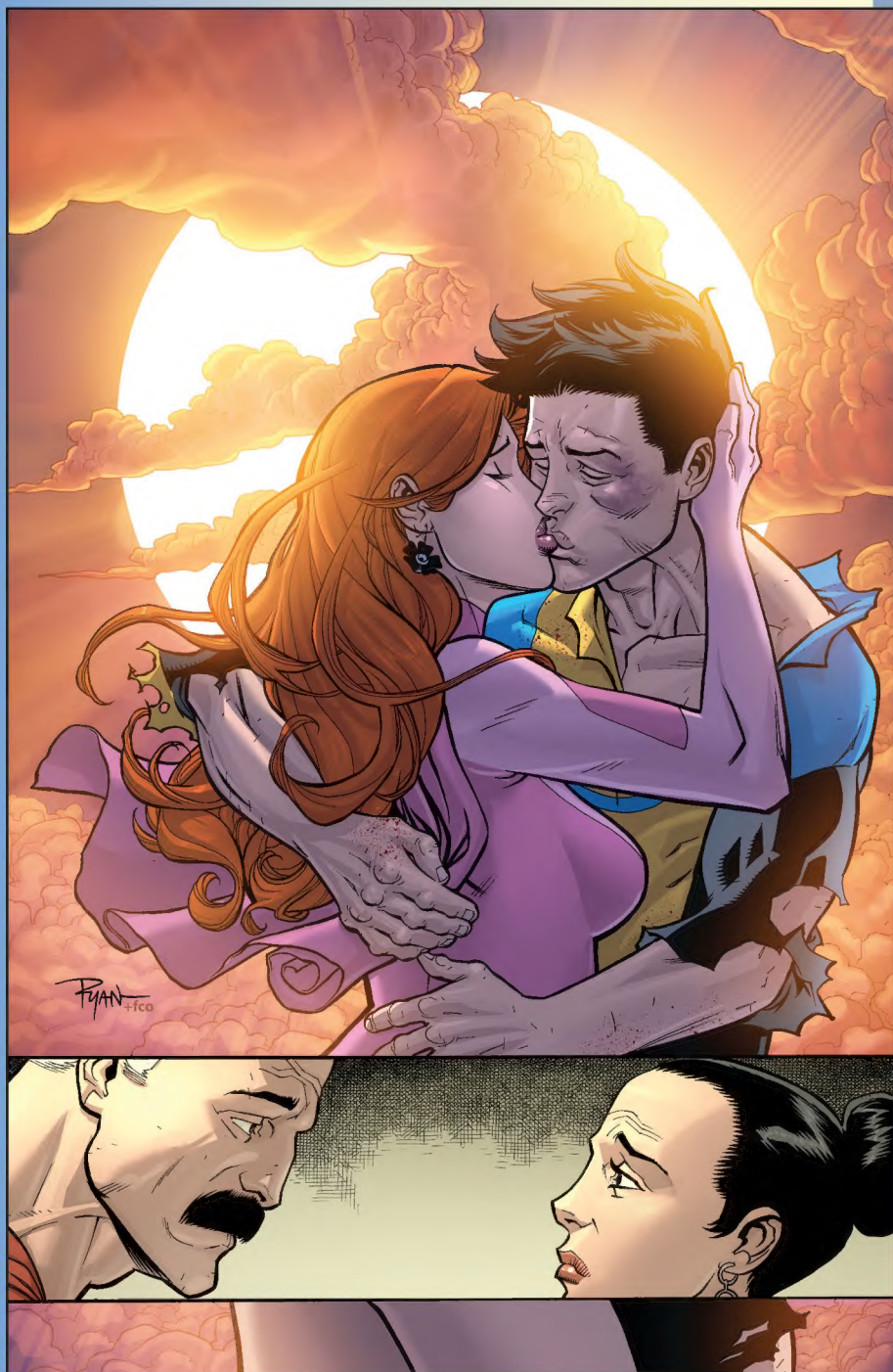
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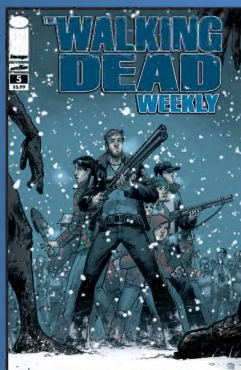
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